

Please let me know if we can be of further assistance on this or any other issue.

Sincerely,

WENDY R. SHERMAN,
Assistant Secretary,
Legislative Affairs.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it was necessary for me to return to my district on Thursday, March 14, before the final vote of the day was taken. I would have voted "yes" on H.R. 2854 on instructing the conferees to extend the reserve conservation program.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY OF TROOP 232 OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon with great pride to acknowledge an outstanding organization in Midland, TX—Troop 232 of the Boy Scouts of America is celebrating its golden anniversary and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate them on this distinguished milestone.

Scout master Cliff Hogue started Troop 232 in 1946, and thanks to his efforts and the efforts of so many fine young men and their families, Troop 232 has reached this impressive record of a half-century of achievement. In the last 12 years, nearly 40 young men of Troop 232 have been awarded the prestigious Eagle Scout Award. In celebrating its golden anniversary, Troop 232 is not only paying tribute to its longevity, but it is recognizing a commitment to leadership and excellence.

As a former Boy Scout myself, I am well aware of the valuable role this organization plays in providing our youth with the necessary tools to become outstanding leaders. The Boy Scouts remind us of all that is good in America, and Troop 232, through its unwavering dedication to that organization's noble principles, has enriched the lives of hundreds of young men and given its community a legacy of which to be proud.

Congratulations Troop 232. May your success continue as you begin your second half-century.

LEGISLATION TO BENEFIT REEMPLOYED VETERANS

HON. BARBARA F. VUCANOVICH

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 [USERRA] increased the protections afforded our service men and women who leave a civilian job for qualified military service. In addition to assuring these

returning veterans that their jobs would be waiting for them when they return, under USERRA a returning veteran is also eligible to have his or her pension, profit-sharing and other related benefits restored. These are the benefits that would have accrued, but for the employee's absence due to qualified military service.

The problem is, under the Internal Revenue Code [IRC], overall limits are placed on contributions and benefits under certain retirement plans. Thus the employer-sponsored pension and savings plan rights given to returning veterans by USERRA are taken away by existing rules in the IRC. If the conflicts between USERRA and the IRC are not corrected, aggrieved veterans will have to bring suit against employers to enforce their rights under USERRA. Relying on litigation to resolve this situation would benefit no one—not the courts, not employers, and certainly not veterans.

Today I am introducing the Veterans Reemployment Benefits Protection Act to allow veterans to received the benefits Congress intended to give them when it enacted USERRA. This legislation makes technical amendments to the IRC to allow returning veterans and their employers to make make-up contributions as authorized by USERRA.

Language similar to this legislation was included in the Balanced Budget Act of 1995, H.R. 2491, as passed by the House. I have added minor technical changes to the language in H.R. 2491 at the suggestion of the Treasury Department.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will agree that this much-needed technical correction to the IRC should be passed expeditiously, either as part of a larger bill or even on its own. The dedicated young men and women who leave their jobs and families to serve in the U.S. military deserve nothing less.

ALCOHOL LABELING ACT

HON. PATRICIA SCHROEDER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, today I and my colleagues are reintroducing the Alcohol Labeling Act, which would require makers of alcoholic beverages to label each beverage container with a list of the ingredients and calories, as well as the alcohol, it contains.

This low-cost proposal establishes the unit of serving size called the drink. One drink contains 0.6 ounces of alcohol—the amount usually found in one beer, one shot of distilled spirits, or one glass of wine.

The only cost to U.S. taxpayers will be \$500,000 for a toll-free number, which would provide referral help for those with a drinking problem. This number and the required information would be legibly printed on each container.

Labeling for alcoholic beverages was not part of the nutrition labeling requirements mandated for food products in 1990. As a result, we are still burdened with an alcohol labeling law that dates from the Prohibition era. It is inconsistent that the alcohol contents of wine and distilled spirits must be disclosed, while producers of beer and malt liquor have the option of listing their ingredients on their labels.

This bill would correct that inconsistency, while providing young consumers, diabetics, and others with diet-sensitive conditions with information on what they are consuming.

I am especially concerned about the increasing problem of teenage binge drinking. This bill would give young, inexperienced drinkers user-friendly information on beverage potency and a standard gauge of the impairment caused by an alcoholic beverage. Informed teens are more likely to avoid death from overdose.

In the 103d Congress, this legislation received the support of groups ranging from the Academy of Pediatrics, to the General Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists, to the National Parent Teacher Association, to the Latino Council on Alcohol and Tobacco.

Providing consumers with the information they need to make informed decisions about drinking is a sound first step in reforming our national alcohol policy.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting ingredient labeling on alcoholic beverages. As individuals, we need this information to be more responsible in our use of alcohol. As a nation, we must end marketing practices that mislead and target our youth.

AMERICA MUST STAND BY TAIWAN

HON. BILL BAKER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, on March 23, the people of Taiwan will hold an event we in this country much too often take for granted: a free election. As Americans, we share in their pride and hopeful anticipation of this great celebration of liberty.

At the same time, we must condemn the actions of the Mainland Chinese in attempting to intimidate the Taiwanese people. The efforts of the dictators in Beijing to somehow frighten the people of Taiwan into postponing their election have failed, and have again reminded the world of what the raw and sordid face of Marxist totalitarianism looks like.

Recently I met on Capitol Hill with Mr. Chen Rong-jye, Deputy Representative of the government of Taiwan. Mr. Chen holds the second-ranking position in the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States, the equivalent of the Taiwanese Embassy—since formal American recognition of the Communist government in Beijing, Taiwan has had no formal embassy in the United States. We discussed China's military actions in the vicinity of Taiwan's coastline, and Mr. Chen showed me on a map how close the Communist Chinese had come in their missile exercises to two major Taiwanese ports.

I was honored that Mr. Chen came to the Hill to meet with me and discuss the Taiwanese situation. Communist China's crude bullying of Taiwan has failed to sway the commitment of the Taiwanese people to democratic elections later this month, and I fully endorse their brave determination to stand for liberty, and also am strongly supportive of the recent placement of U.S. naval ships in the waters near Taiwan.

In addition, I am proud to be an original co-sponsor of the nonbinding House Concurrent